

Sirs:

I am saddened to hear that the FCC is even considering shutting down the XM broadcasting of local traffic and weather information for what amounts to a handful of cities across the US. Rather than encouraging it's members to adapt and compete, the National Association of Broadcasters is choosing to stifle a free market strategy by XM. I personally find the recent addition of traffic reports for major cities a huge benefit to me while traveling along the I-95 corridor. The reports provided by XM are complete and comprehensive - and repeated every 3-4 minutes. By comparison, if I can find a radio station that is broadcasting traffic info (which I can tell you is not easy) it is nowhere near as detailed as what TrafficPulse provides, and is at the most repeated every 10-15 minutes. XM has merely provided a better service than it's competition. Shutting them down because of it would be a great injustice.

Please reject the NAB's petition 04-160. Their status as a powerful lobby holds little weight against the success of capitalism. Encourage the NAB to COMPETE and regain the listenership it has lost because of its monopolistic arrogance. The assertion that broadcasting local traffic and weather will impact a local stations ability to provide news and information is ludicrous. Does this mean that XM should remove CNN, Fox News, ESPN news, and other information stations because I can get my news from them instead of a local station? Of course not. But I wouldn't be surprised if the NAB succeeds here, that they'll set their crosshairs at limiting XM's ability to broadcast anything other than music.

Please note also that XM has not violated any law. They and Sirius have simply provided a service that obviously has been wanted by nearly 2 million people - and in that lies the NAB's true motivation: to kill competition. I'm urging you to please deny this petition.